

#EO-74
RQ

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

March 22, 2004

Dr. Robert Fitzgerald
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX –
Request to be Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National
Historic Preservation Act**

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

Thank you for your letter dated February 20, 2004 (received March 18, 2004) in which you request to participate as a consulting party in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 process. As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including NHPA.

We appreciate your interest in our environmental review process and your request to become a consulting party in the NHPA section 106 process. We are pleased to include you in your capacity as a private landowner as a section 106 consulting party for this proceeding and will make sure that you receive all information regarding the ongoing section 106 process. Since you are also the designated section 106 representative for the Medina County Environmental Action Association (MCEAA), which has been a section 106 consulting party in this proceeding since July 21, 2003, we will address future correspondence to you regarding the section 106 process as follows:

Dr. Robert Fitzgerald
Private Landowner/
President, MCEAA
202 CR 450
Hondo, TX 78861

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rini Ghosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rini" and last name "Ghosh" clearly distinguishable.

Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Bill Martin, Texas Historical Commission
Pamela Opiela, Texas Historical Commission